

Two new species of the genus *Quedius* from Algeria and Pakistan (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylinini: Quediina)

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Two new species of the genus *Quedius* from Algeria and Pakistan (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylinini: Quediina). - The new species *Quedius (Microsaurus) asphaltinus* from Pakistan, and *Quedius (Raphirus) boreoaffricanus* from Algeria are described, illustrated and compared to related species.

Key-words: Taxonomy - new species - Coleoptera - Staphylinidae - Algeria - Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Quedius* Stephens, 1829 comprises almost 800 species occurring in all zoogeographical regions of the world.

Palaearctic species (about 500) live usually in forest floor litter, leaf litter, around bases and in hollows of old trees, under hay heaps etc. Some species prefer caves, watersides, swamps, ant hills and underground nests of insects or various little mammals.

Two new species were found among the material from the collection of the Muséum d'histoire naturelle Genève and from some private collections. The descriptions follow below. All measurements in the descriptions are given in millimeters.

TAXONOMICAL PART

Quedius (Microsaurus) asphaltinus sp. n.

Figs 1-2

Type material. Holotype ♀: "Pakistan, NW Frontier Prov., Nathiagali (20 km N Murree), 34.04 N/73.24 E, 2400 m, J. Kaláb leg., 9.-11.viii.2000". In the collection of the National Museum Prague, Czech Republic.

Description. Female. Length 12 mm. Black, abdomen inconspicuously iridescent; front tibia, apex of tarsi as well as apex of abdomen somewhat paler.

Head of obtusely quadrangular shape, wider than long (length/width=1,81/1,97), slightly arcuately narrowed to neck, posterior angles indistinct; frons behind antennal insertions with shallow triangular impression. Eyes small and rather flat, hardly protruding from lateral contours of head, tempora longer than eyes seen from above (0,81/0,66); no additional setiferous punctures between anterior frontal punctures; posterior frontal puncture situated closer to posterior margin of eye than to posterior margin of head, two smaller consecutive setiferous punctures between it and

posterior margin of head; temporal puncture closer to posterior margin of head than to posterior margin of eye, no fine punctures behind temporal puncture; surface of head with very fine and dense microsculpture of mostly transverse waves and with scattered sparse micropunctulation.

Antenna moderately long, segment 3 longer than segment 2 (0,34/0,25), segment 4 and 5 about as long as wide, segments 6-10 wider than long (gradually becoming wider and shorter), segment 11 slightly shorter than two preceding segments combined.

Pronotum wider than long (length/width=2,19/2,44) widest behind middle, basal margin broadly rounded, lateral portions not explanate, distinctly narrowed anteriorly; dorsal rows each with three punctures, sublateral rows each with two punctures, posterior puncture situated distinctly before level of large lateral puncture; surface of pronotum with microsculpture similar to that on head, micropunctulation finer.

Scutellum impunctate, surface with very dense and fine microsculpture of transverse waves, apical half with some scattered micropunctures.

Elytra about as long as wide (length/width=2,69/2,66), at base narrower than pronotum at widest point, slightly widened posteriorly, at sides distinctly longer (2,56/2,19), at suture hardly longer (2,31/2,19) than pronotum at midline; punctation coarse, sparse and markedly unevenly dispersed, interspaces glossy with scattered points (Fig. 1).

Abdomen with tergite 7 bearing a distinct, whitish apical seam of palisade setae; punctation of tergites finer and much denser than that on elytra, rather uniform toward apex of abdomen. Genital segment with tergite 10 short and wide, markedly narrowed toward apex (Fig. 2).

Pubescence of elytra and abdomen piceous black, uniform.

Front tarsi slightly dilated, segment 2 about as wide as apex of tibia.

Male. Unknown.

Comparison. *Quedius asphaltinus* belongs by the body shape, the chaetotaxy of the head and the pronotum and the dark colouration near *Q. (Microsaurus) mesomelinus* (Marsham, 1802). It can easily be distinguished by its larger size and by the conspicuous punctation of the elytra.

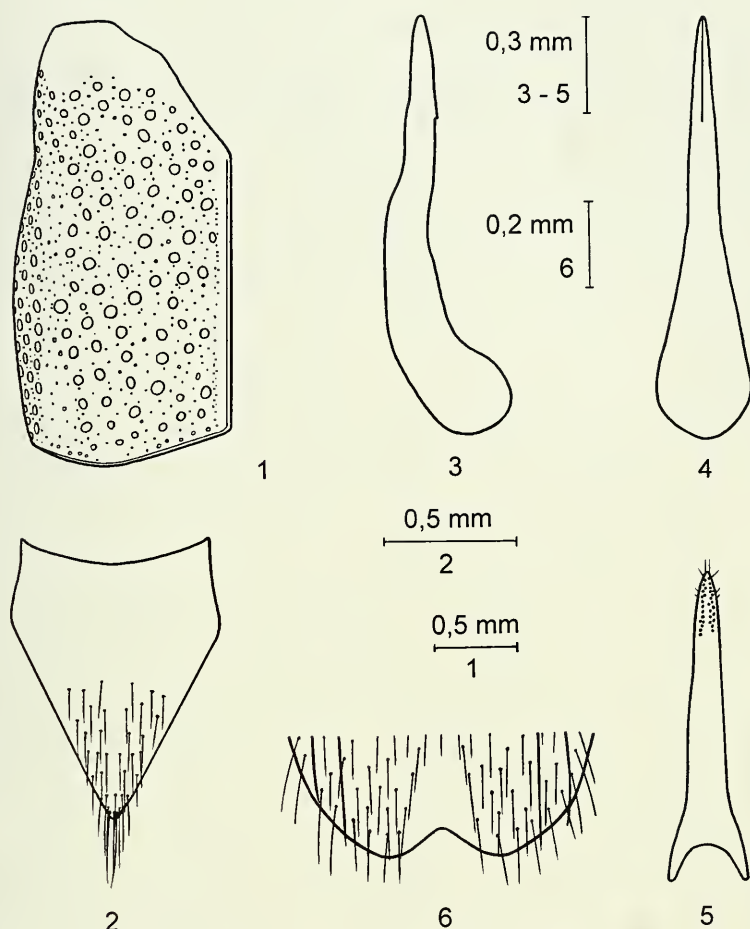
In the Near East occurs another robust species with very sparse punctation of elytra - *Q. fagelianus* Coiffait, 1967. It belongs to the subgenus *Distichalius* Casey, 1915 (elytra with three irregular longitudinal rows of punctures only). It differs from *Q. asphaltinus* apart from the subgeneric characters given above, mainly as follows: palpi, antennae and legs paler, mostly rufobrunneous; head more transverse (l/w ratio about 0,75); only one puncture between posterior frontal puncture and posterior margin of head.

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the deep dark colouration and the relatively shining surface of the body.

Quedius (Raphirus) boreoaffricanus sp. n.

Figs 3-6

Type material. Holotype ♂: "Algérie: Atlas de Blida, Chréa, Les Glacières, 1100 m, 3.V.1988, Besuchet-Löbl-Burckhardt". In the collection of Muséum d'histoire naturelle Genève, Switzerland.



FIGS 1-6

1 - 2: *Quedius (Microsaurus) asphaltinus* sp. n. (holotype ♀): 1 - punctation of left elytra, 2 - female tergite 10. 3 - 6: *Quedius (Raphirus) boreoaffricanus* sp. n. (holotype ♂): 3 - median lobe in lateral view, 4 - median lobe in ventral view, 5 - underside of paramere, 6 - apical emargination of male sternite 8.

Description. Male. Length 6.5 mm. Head dark brown; pronotum piceous brown with lateral portions and anterior angles paler; elytra testaceous, sutural area narrowly darkened; abdomen dark brown, iridescent. Antennae and palpi testaceorufous; bases of antennae, legs and apical portions of abdominal tergites testaceous.

Head rounded, about as long as wide (length/width=0.88/0.89); eyes large and convex, tempora much shorter than length of eyes seen from above (0.17/0.56); no additional setiferous punctures between anterior frontal punctures; posterior frontal puncture very close to posteromedian margin of eye, one puncture between it and posterior margin of head; temporal puncture touching posterior margin of eye, tempora with some fine punctures; surface of head with dense and very fine microsculpture of

transverse waves gradually becoming irregular toward clypeus and forming numerous meshes there.

Antenna moderately long, segment 3 inconspicuously longer than segment 2 (0,19/0,16), segments 4 and 5 somewhat longer than wide, following segments gradually becoming shorter, segments 7-10 about as long as wide, segment 11 slightly shorter than two preceding segments combined.

Pronotum as long as wide (length/width=1,19/1,19), broadly rounded basally, slightly narrowed anteriorly; dorsal and sublateral rows each with three punctures, posterior sublateral puncture situated behind level of large lateral puncture; surface of pronotum with microsculpture similar to that on head.

Scutellum impunctate, surface with dense and fine microsculpture of transverse waves.

Elytra as long as wide (length/width=1,44/1,44), at base hardly narrower than pronotum at widest point, slightly widened posteriad, at sides longer (1,38/1,19), at suture about as long as pronotum at midline; punctation fine and somewhat not uniform, longitudinal interspaces between punctures two times larger than diameters of punctures, transverse interspaces about as wide as diameters of punctures, surface between punctures without microsculpture.

Abdomen from tergite 4 narrowed toward apex, tergite 7 with distinct, whitish apical seam of palisade setae; punctation of tergites finer and slightly denser than that on elytra. Sternite 8 with triangular emargination (Fig. 6), shape of tergite 10 and sternite 9 very similar to that of other species in the *Q. nemoralis* X *humeralis*-group.

Pubescence of elytra and abdomen brownish and uniform.

Front tarsi slightly dilated, segment 2 about as wide as apex of tibia. Right middle tibia with tarsi is missing.

Aedeagus relatively narrow and elongate, his shape in Figs. 3-5.

Female. Unknown.

Comparison. The new species belongs to the *Q. nemoralis* X *humeralis*-group, but only two species of it occur in North Africa - *Q. humeralis* Stephens, 1832 and *Q. pauliani* Koch, 1941. The aedeagus of *Q. pauliani* is very similar to that of *Q. nemoralis* Baudi, 1848 (median lobe spoonshaped in ventral view). The aedeagus of *Q. boreoaffricanus* resembles more that of *Q. humeralis*, but it differs mainly in the very long apical keel of the median lobe (about 2,4 times longer than that of *Q. humeralis*); the apical portion of median lobe is narrow, but not pointed in ventral and lateral views and the paramere is slightly wider and less pointed (see Coiffait 1978, Fagel 1968).

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to the occurrence of the species in North Africa.

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